

-Commerce And Industry, S.G Smith Hillsboro, W, Va. Pocahontas County.

Lutz And Macinish-Lumber )

In 1911 D.E Lutz of Elkins Randolph County and a man by the name of  
Macinish of Belington came to Pocahontas County and bought timber from John  
and Levi V Gay of Edray deeds recorded as follows July 11, 1911 about 400  
acres from Levi V Gay and Lee his wife amount paid \$5000.00 and in 1912  
John D and Allie Gay sold them a tract of timber for \$1,500.00 deed dated  
November 12, 1912, C.J McCarty was clerk of the County Court at that time.  
They also bought a small amount of timber from Linnie Tyler of near Edray.

They set their Circular mill on the William Wooddell farm at the  
mouth of the Draft and just above where the Fair Ground, Brush Country  
Road crosses Stony Creek. They built a boarding house for the men and  
erected stables to care for their horses 8 in number as they did their  
own skidding and most of their cutting.

This Gay timber was located on and near Elk Mountain as they  
operated the timber on the face of Elk Mountain up to the big turn on  
the old road.

They had a locomotive, but loaded by hand, this was not a standard  
gauge engine nor was it a narrow gauge, it was in between, track was lay-  
ed from the mill to the foot of Elk Mountain or a distance of approxima-  
tely 4 miles. ~~|||||~~ O.M Hook now a farmer of Stamping Creek was one  
of the locomotive engineers as well as William Waugh then of Ronceverte.  
The sawyers were Bert Roberts and I.O Smith and it was estimated they  
cut between 5 and 6 million feet at this set. This lumber was mostly Red  
and White Oak with some Chestnut and was shipped out about as fast as  
it was sawed as most of it went to the Government and mostly heavy tim-  
bers cut from White Oak.

This operation finished up in 1915 the mill was taken down and



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moved south the log engine 2 or 3 log train trucks were bought by A.V Miller of Pennsylvania and at that time operating near Bartow near the head of the Greenbrier River.

They employed something like 20 men on the mill and in the woods besides 6 that operated the train and kept up the track therefore the payroll of this lumber job meant a lot to Pocahontas County and especially to Marlinton as the clothing and grocery stores did a flourishing business during the time the timber of this county was being operated as the woodsman had to have warm clothing and plenty of good substantial food.

This operation did not affect the growth of Pocahontas County in the least directly but the taxes this company paid helped with our county government.

There is no trace of this operation at this time .

Information-J.V McKenney Marlinton W.Va.Rfd.

O.M Hook Millpoint ''

Court Records Marlinton ''



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Industry And Commerce

S.G Smith Hillsboro, W.Va

The Droney Lumber Company.

In 1906 J R Droney of the state of New York came to West Virginia to buy some timber land he came to Pocahontas Co, and bought between 8000 and 10,000 acres on the east side of Greenbrier River from Rock Run just above Burnside a flag stop of the Greenbrier Division of the C and O Railroad to above Violet which is another stop flag station of the C and O then up Beaver Creek by Howard Underwoods the entire valley from there toward Burr Vally this covered the entire area of Pyles Mountain, Island Lick, Chicken House Run which is just across the river from Seebert, W Va.

A mill site was selected at what is now known as Watoga, W.Va and there the mill was set up it was a single band mill which had a circular saw set beside to cut the small logs.

They built 25 or more dwelling houses, a boarding house, a store building post office, and school house, telephone service was extended there and everything made ready to start operation which started in March 1906, James Cook of Buckeye and A, J Cook of Seebert W.Va contracted the skidding but George McComb of Watoga and Fdd Whiting of Pennsylvania skidded up Beaver Creek and a million feet elsewhere on the job, Morris and Kimes also had a contract during the operation of this tract of timber.

Around 175 men were used in the woods, on the train, on the mill and loader 2 locomotives and 1 loader was used 30 to 40 horses R-R tracks were laid from the mill at Watoga up to Violet and up Beaver Creek, other tracks were laid to head of Chicken House run and to the head of Island Lick Run.

This company operated for approximately 4 yrs or 1910 and ran into difficulty and a new company took it over this time it operated under the name of Tomb Lumber Company William Tomb of Philadelphia, Pa. was General manager they op-

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erated for another 4 years or until 1914 and they to were forced to quit and this time it was taken over by Watoga Lumber Company receivership for the company the job was completed in 1916.

This Watoga operation meant a lot to this section of the country as it furnished a market for surplus farm products of the surrounding territory namely dairy products poultry, eggs, meat, and truck crops. The Company built a school house and the county furnished the teacher for the children of the employees. Sunday School and preaching were held in the school building for the inhabitants of this lumber town.

Approximately 80 million feet were cut at Watoga besides the tan bark that was peeled and shipped out., to tanneries all over the United States. Wages paid at Watoga were 1.50 to \$2.00 with board or \$2 25 to \$3.00 and board yourself. the lumber was all shipped out and the mill taken down part of the rail and other equipment was bought by the Neel and Son Lumber Company operating near the head of the Greenbrier River the rest was disposed of elsewhere and shipped out of the country. at the close of this operation the houses with a suitable plot of ground was sold to the people from other sections of the state most of these were colored people and today we find a number of colored famalies living there, with a store, Postoffice, and a school when there is enough children to run a school. The Government having bought the mountain land to grow in to a forest.

One of my informants George McComb who is up in 80 years old worked at Watoga at day work also contract work, another informant Dennis Dunn worked a number of years at Watoga and